

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103699

FOR AMB MC HENRY; CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA COMMENTS ON CANADIAN DRAFT SPEECH

1. THE CANADIAN DRAFT SPEECH FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION
ON NAMIBIA STRIKES US AS AN EXCELLENT PRODUCT.
2. FOLLOWING COMMENTS REFLECT OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING:

-- PERHAPS MORE SHOULD BE SAID ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE
SPECIAL SESSION TO OFFSET CLAIMS THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING
TO DOWNGRADE ITS IMPORTANCE. THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED
BY POINTING OUT THE CONSTRUCTIVE EFFECT THE SESSION
COULD HAVE IN PERSUADING BOTH PARTIES TO ACCEPT THE
PROPOSALS AND IMPLEMENT THEM, WHILE WARNING AGAINST ANY
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EFFORT TO UNDERCUT THE PROPOSALS.

-- WE AGREE THAT A STATEMENT ON THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY
CONCERNS OF THE PARTIES AND THE ROLE OF THE CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY WOULD BE USEFUL, PARTICULARLY TO BALANCE THE
SECTION ON WALVIS BAY. THIS MIGHT BEST BE COUCHED IN
TERMS OF A REFERENCE TO THE LAW AND ORDER CAPABILITIES OF

THE UN FORCE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ADEQUATE TO ASSURE
THE SECURITY OF ALL. THEN STATEMENT COULD GO ON TO

ASSERT FIVE'S CONTINUED CONCERN OVER SECURITY (CAPE TOWN
789) AND SAY SOMETHING DELPHIC ABOUT THE CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY.

-- WE THINK A PASSAGE WHICH TALKS ABOUT THE EXTRAORDINARY
EFFORTS ALL HAVE PUT INTO MAKING THESE PROPOSALS AIR
AND BALANCED WOULD BE IN ORDER. CREDIT WOULD BE GIVEN
TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND A LITTLE MORE WOULD BE
MADE OF THE NEW YORK PROXIMITY TALKS AS A HISTORIC
OCCASION FOR DISCUSSING ISSUES OF KEY CONCERN TO AFRICA
AND THE WEST AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS ON THE BASIS OF FULL
PARTNERSHIP. THE POINT WOULD BE THAT TOO MUCH EFFORT
HAS GONE INTO THESE PROPOSALS TO CAST THEM ASIDE OR
RENEGOTIATE THEM NOW.

-- A CONCLUDING PASSAGE PLAYING UP THE CRUCIAL JUNCTURE
AT WHICH OUR NAMIBIAN EFFORT FINDS ITSELF NOW WOULD
SEEM IN ORDER. WE COULD SAY THAT NEITHER SIDE HAS YET
ACCEPTED OR REJECTED THE PROPOSALS, THAT BOTH HAVE RE-
SPONDED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION AND THAT THE CG EFFORT
HANGS IN THE BALANCE. IF IT SUCCEEDS WE BELIEVE NAMIBIA
CAN MOVE PROMPTLY TO INDEPENDENCE PEACEFULLY AND JUSTLY.
IF IT FAILS, THERE WILL BE BLOODSHED AND THE PROSPECT OF
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OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.

3. WE ARE STRUCK BY CAPETOWN 804 WHICH RE-EMPHASIZES
THE CRITICAL NATURE OF THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN THE SOUTH
AFRICAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. THIS REINFORCES OUR
FEELING THAT THE BALANCE OF OUR STATEMENT IS CRITICAL,
PARTICULARLY ON SENSITIVE ISSUES SUCH AS WALVIS BAY AND
SECURITY ASSURANCES. IT PERHAPS ALSO SUGGEST THE
UTILITY OF A STATEMENT BY THE FIVE OUT OF LONDON EMPHASIZ-
ING THEIR DETERMINATION TO SEE THE MATTER THROUGH FOR A
FAIR AND PROMPT SETTLEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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